

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00469 031134Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 INR-05 IO-06 H-01 PM-03

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /036 W

-----084791 031243Z /46

P R 030400Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 819

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

S E C R E T DJIBOUTI 469

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PDIP, MASS, DJ, ET, SO

SUBJ: MISSION OF SEPCIAL EMISSARY TO SOMALIA; BRIEFING OF
DJIBOUTI PRIME MINISTER

REF: STATE 081716

1. CHARGE PRESENTED TALKING POINTS OUTLINED REFTEL TO PRIME
MINISTER ABDALLAH KAMIL MORNING 2 APRIL. DJIBOUTI PRIME MINISTER
VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE INFORMATION THEREIN, REMARKING ONLY THAT
IT WOULD HAVE BETTER HAD THE PRESIDENT INCLUDED DJIBOUTI IN
REMARKS PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL ENVOY'S MISSION TO SOMALIA.

2. ABDALLAH KAMIL IS DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS OF ANY SO-CALLED
GUARANTEES THAT ANYONE MAY RECEIVE FROM PRISIDENT SIAD BARRE.
HE REPORTS THAT FROM EXPERIENCE OF DJIBOUTI POLITICIANS, BARRE IS
THE WORST KIND OF MARXIST-SOCIALIST OPPORTUNIST, WHO WILL FOLLOW
ONLY HIS OWN SELFINTERESTS. WHEN IT SUITS HIS PURPOSES. SIAD WILL
PROMISE ANYTHING, AND WE SHOULD BE CONTINUOUSLY WARY OF ANY
DEALINGS WITH HIM.

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PAGE 02 DJIBOU 00469 031134Z

3. THE DJIBOUTI MINISTER OBSERVED THAT THE REAL DANGER OF SOMALIA
TO DJIBOUTI, OF COURSE, LIES NOT IN ARMED AGGRESSION, BUT IN
INTERNAL SUBVERSION. HE CITED THE NAMES OF A FEW PEOPLE
LZESCRIBED AS QTE IN THE SOMALI POCKET UNQTE, INCLUDING JUSTICE
MINISTER ISMAIL ALI YOUSOUF, AN AFAR WHO NOW SIDES WITH THE
SOMLIS, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT SAAD WARSAMA, WHO PURCHASED
DJIBOUTI'S BEST HOTEL WITH SOMALI FUNDS. KAMIL NOTED THAT THE

SOMALI DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN DJIBOUTI ACTS NOT AS A DIPLOMATIC MISSION BUT PRACTICALLY AS AN EXTRA BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT.

4. THE CHARGE STATED THAT THE U.S. CAN ATTEMPT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO REDUCE RISKS OF DIRECT CONFRONTATIONS WITH DJIBOUTI'S NEIGHBORS, BUT THAT WE ARE POWERLESS TO PREVENT DJIBOUTI FROM GIVING ITSELF UP TO EITHER OR BOTH OF THE NEIGHBORS. PRIME MINISTER KAMIL, OF COURSE, AGREED, AND SAID THAT HE HOPED ONLY THAT DJIBOUTI COULD AVOID COMMITTING NATIONAL SUICIDE BY FOLLOWING THE SIREN SONGS OF EITHER NEIGHBORING STATE.

5. COMMENT. AFAR LEADER ABDALLAH KAMIL REPRESENTS VIRTUALLY THE UNIQUE COUNTERWEIGHT IN THE GOVERNMENT TO THE PREPONDERANT ETHNIC SOMALI MAJORITY. THEREFORE, HIS REMARKS ABOUT SOMALIS TEND TO BE SEVERE. MOST ETHNIC SOMALIS IN THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE FORMALLY AFFILIATED WITH SOMALIA; HOWEVER, THEY HAVE A NATURAL TENDENCY TO SUPPORT ANYTHING WHICH ADVANCES SOMALI INTERESTS AGAINST THE WIDELY-FEARED ETHIOPIANS. THE TRUE TEST OF ANY SOMALI LEADER IN DJIBOUTI WOULD BE THEIR ABILITY TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE NEED TO SUPPRESS THEIR TRADITIONAL ANTAGONISM TOWARD ETHIOPIA AND TO AVOID FRICTIONS SO THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES MAY WORK TOGETHER. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE VERY FEW SOMALIS IN THE LEADERSHIP WHO COULD RECEIVE PASSING MARKS IN THAT DOMAIN.

6. NOTE: REFTEL RECEIVED THURSDAY EVENING, 30 MARCH, JUST
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PAGE 03 DJIBOU 00469 031134Z

IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO TWO-DAY DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT WEEKEND, AND THERE WAS NO WAY TO MEET THE PRIME MINISTER IN HIS OFFICE BEFORE THIS MORNING.
CLARKE

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MS. KENNEDY, S/S-O

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NNN

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